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FLOOR DEBATE

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few tires that would be allowed into the landfills, but a very few. With that, I would try to answer any questions if you have any. It's a good bill. It's one that DEQ thinks is necessary. And would ask you to vote for this amendment.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Schrock. The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek, to be followed by Senators Cunningham, Hartnett, and Wehrbein. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Schrock, I'm sorry, but I had not looked at this particular amendment before we got up here on the floor, and I'd like to know where this amendment came from. Was this a bill that was considered? Or...I mean, it's a very extensive amendment, and it's a huge policy decision, in my opinion. So I'd like to know where it came from.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: This is LB 144. It was advanced by a committee by an 8 to 0 vote. And it's a bill brought to us by the Department of Environmental Quality. And it would prohibit the disposal of tires into landfills. That's probably the major portion of it. And it would say how we could recycle tires. And, yes, it is a change. We have been dealing with scrap tires for about 12 years, and it's tough to get it right. And as you know, we had a fire down in Nebraska City. We're encouraging...I'm encouraged by the fact that I think more tires are going to be recycled into crumb rubber and used on our highways. And of course, they've been used in football fields and playground equipment. And we're trying to head this tire recycling program into the right direction, and we think LB 144 gets us one step closer.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, there are a lot of people on this floor who don't have the historical perspective on this. And I guess, would you just outline for them what this grant fund has been and what it's been able to do? And are you getting rid of that, am I understanding right, with this bill?

SENATOR SCHROCK: No, no, we're not getting rid of the grant